

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3112

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, SA

SUBJECT: CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING CONFERENCE FOR BENEFIT
OF AFRICAN STATES, GENEVA, MAY 32 TO JUNE 2, 1978

REF: GENEVA 08814

1. PER PARA 7, REFTEL, REQUEST DEPARTMENT INFORM MISSION
WHETHER ANY RESPONSES WERE SENT TO ELEVEN DELEGATIONS
REQUESTING USG ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING THEIR CIVIL AVIA-
TIONS PERSONNEL. MISSION CONCERN IS BASED IN TWO
FACTORS:

(A) US BUSINESS INTERESTS: AS INDICATED PARA 9,
REFTEL, WE BELIEVE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF OUR COOPERATION
OR LACK THEREOF WITH CA INITIATIVES IN AFRICA MAY HAVE
A HELPFUL OR ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR COMMERCIAL SALES
THERE. WE SEE NO REASON, THEREFORE, TO ALLOW OTHER
MANUFACTURING COUNTRIES OF CA EQUIPMENT, BOTH GROUND
AND AIRCRAFT, TO MOVE INTO TRAINING OF PERSONNEL (WHICH
NORMALLY LEADS TO DEMANDS FOR EQUIPMENT) WITHOUT US
COMPETITION. AFTER ALL, EXPERTS SET CA STANDARDS AND
FOREIGN EXPERTS ARE LIKELY TO DEVISE STANDARDS FAVORING
THEIR OWN COUNTRIES' MANUFACTURERS - NOT OURS. MISSION
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REALIZES CURRENT USG POLICY IS TO SUPPORT CA WORLD-WIDE
THROUGH OUR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNDP WHICH IN TURN
SUPPORTS ICAD. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE
TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO SUPPLEMENT THIS THROUGH DIRECT
ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH
HAVE SOUGHT OUT OUR ASSISTANCE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE
GIVEN OUR FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS.

(B) CREDIBILITY: SOME DELEGATIONS DISCUSSING THEIR TRAINING NEEDS WITH USDEL WERE HEADED BY MINISTERS. FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS, USDEL COULD ONLY HEAR THEIR REQUESTS AND PROMISE A LATER RESPONSE. THE PROMISE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

HOWEVER, WAS MADE IN NAME OF USG. THEREFORE, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SOME RESPONSE BE PROVIDED IN ORDER TO RETAIN MISSION'S LOCAL CREDIBILITY IN OTHER GENEVA FORA NOT TO MENTION USG BI-LATERAL CREDIBILITY WITH THOSE GOVERNMENTS.

2. IF DEPARTMENT DESIRES TO INSTRUCT MISSION ON TYPE OF RESPONSES TO BE GIVEN TO EACH COUNTRY NAMED PARA 7, MISSION WILL DRAFT AND SEND RESPONSE TO EACH CHIEF OF DELEGATION, AS PROMISED. PLEASE ADVISE. SORENSON

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